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News Release

ICE FUGITIVE TEAM ARRESTS CONVICTED CRIMINAL

Crimes include rape and child molestation

ATLANTA, GA - 39-year-old citizen of Guatemala with a criminal history including rape and child molestation to driving under the influence was arrested here at his residence Friday by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention and removal officers.

An immigration judge found Walter Marroquin-Gonzalez ineligible for any form of relief and ordered him removed on Sep. 8, 1999. He chose to ignore the judge's order and had been eluding deportation for the past six years.

"The removal of criminals who endanger our children is among ICE's highest priority," said John A. Mata, field office director for detention and removal in Atlanta. "These lawbreakers that think that they can hide from us are mistaken. We are looking for them, and we will find them."

Marroquin is in ICE custody pending removal from the country.

ICE's Detention and Removal efforts nationwide promote public safety and national security by ensuring all aliens who are subject to deportation are removed to their home countries as expeditiously as possible.

ICE's Atlanta office is home to one of 18 absconder teams nationwide which are tasked with locating and apprehending aliens who attempt to hide in the United States despite the lawful orders of immigration judges who have ordered the aliens to leave the country.

In Atlanta, ICE has arrested more than 500 criminal aliens since the beginning of fiscal year 05. ICE removed over 3,392 illegal aliens from the Atlanta area in fiscal year 04; 2,105 were criminal aliens.

ICE

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U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.